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Lilac Aristocrats

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FRENCH HYBRID LILACS

ADELAIDE DUNBAR, a semi-double dark lilac, maroon in bud and warm red-violet, when fully open. One of the darkest.

ALPHONSE LAVALLE. Very large shapely panicle, two-toned white florets are opening, deep blue in bud, florets of fringed feathery periwinkle blue changing to sky blue. Bush is broad and sturdy. Blooms profusely. Exceptionally fine and distinctive. One of our favorite doubles.

ARCHEVEQUE. Beautiful and rare dark double. Plum-violet with grey reverses. In bud the broad clusters are eupatorium purple. Ages to tourmaline pink. Rare.

BELLE DE NANCY. Delicate satiny lilac rose pink double. Buds show lavender tones. White centers in florets are conspicuous. Low growing and bushy. Foliage and stem have dark purplish tones. A truly beautiful lilac.

BERRYER. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

BUFFON. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

CAPTAINE BALLET. Remarkable for the enormous size of trusses and florets, its profuse blooming and its rozy mauve color. One of LeMoine's best singles and one of the best of all the lilacs. Comparatively rare.

CAPTAINE PERRAULT. Lemoine describes this double: "Large spikes of big full flowers of a superb rosy mauve; a superior and late flowering sort."

CHARLES JOLLY. Double reddish purple, bush tall and slim, spike slender. "Best of the dark red doubles," says Wister. Supply usually limited.

CHARLES SARGENT. Truly double of true lavender. The spike is somewhat loose and filled with florets that look like tiny roses. Many ask, "Is this a lilac?" Late.

CHARLES X. Single reddish purple with bright red buds. Tall bush. Narrow racemes with bracts. Flowers showy and well above the foliage, covering bush completely. Late midseason. Keeps well as a cut flower.

CHRISTOPHE COLOMB. Unusually beautiful single, not easy to describe. A tall, shapely bush covered with bright blue-mauve in large clusters. A bush one has to stop and admire. Newer variety.

CLAUDE BERNARD. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

CONGO. A single vinous red. Bush tall and always heavy with bloom. Very popular variety.

DECAISNE. Beautiful single flowers of soft azure blue borne in loose clusters abundantly. Exquisite and dainty.

DE MIRABEL. Single slate-blue violet. Unopened buds are dark violet. Open florets have a white reverse. Unusually beautiful effect. Pointed cone-like spikes. One of the darkest of all lilacs, distinct in color and form.

DESCARTES. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

DIDEROT. Deep claret purple of sensational size and form. Both panicles and florets are of immense size. A slow grower and outstanding when established.

EDITH CAVELL. Showy milk-white double. Blooms between Mme. LeMoine, which is early, and Miss Ellen Willmott, the latest white double. Panicle is open and lace-like.

EDOWARD ANDRE. Double pink flowers of medium size borne in open, much branched clusters. One of the best pink lilacs.

ETNA. Branched clusters of rich claret-purple single florets. Described by the originator, Lemoine, as the nearest approach to red. Late.

GENERAL PERSHING. Dark, rich purple violet double, racemes long and compact.

GLOIRE DE MOULINS. Dark reddish purple single. Very profuse bloomer, completely covering the bush with bloom. Mid-season. Easily forms a little tree.

HIPPOLYTE MARINGER. A double with unusual and distinguished coloring, having several hues of purple with a touch of white in the center. Undulating and billowy racemes well above the foliage.

HUGO KOSTER. A single of light lilac tinged mauve. Clusters open and pyramidal. Bush well shaped, foliage dense, very floriferous. Showy landscape variety. Good for cutting.

JAN VAN TOL. A single white with unusually large florets and panicles of great size. An outstanding variety comparatively new in America.

JEAN MACE. Early double bluish mauve. Unusually thrifty habit of growth. One of the most floriferous of the French lilacs.

JEANNE D'ARC. A magnificent double white. Spikes long and showy. A sturdy bush always sure to bloom abundantly.

KATHERINE HAVEMEYER. Outstanding for its immense panicles of tightly packed double florets of cobalt blue shading to mauve pink. Blooms profusely. Conspicuous and ornate. Early.

LA PLACE. Ashy claret-violet single. Cupped florets form a compact slender spike a shade darker than Congo. Midseason to late.

LAMARTINE. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

LEON GAMBETTA. A favorite double pink because of the large size of the compact long-stemmed trusses formed from florets like small roses. Strong upright grower. Delicate color and profuse in bloom. Always scarce. Midseason.

LOUVOIS. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

LUCIE BALET. Unusual single lilac. Because of its color, in a class by itself. No other lilac has coral shades of pink. Buds have been described as coppery pink, shrimp pink and salmon pink (in delicate shades, of course). Florets open shell pink and age to flesh pink. Large open trusses, bush compact in habit, very hardy and floriferous. Usually sold out.

LUDWIG SPAETH. Rich red-purple single. Massive well-filled spikes in generous profusion on a robust bush. A very popular variety.

MME. CASIMIR PERRIER. Creamy white double with yellow stamens. Very satisfactory and dependable. Early.

MME. LEMOINE. Florets large, double and pure dazzling white. Long spikes of bloom. Bush tall and symmetrical. Grows rapidly. A favorite among the double whites.

MME. LEON SIMON. Double lilac blue. Bush covered profusely with racemes of medium size and pyramidal. Late.

MARCEAU. A single slightly lighter red than Diderot and Mas-sena, described by some as a violet-red, by others as eupatorium purple turning to ageratum violet. The petals of the florets are deeply cupped. Slow growing, hence called "a dwarf." Rarely available.

MARCEHAL FOCH. Single sparkling carmine-rose with carmine buds. Spikes are large, open and showy. In the light of the setting sun the color glows and the clusters look like bright phlox. Tall, sturdy and shapely bush. Early and floriferous. The late Felix Crousse declared that it is "The handsomest of all single lilacs."

MARECHAL LANNES. Florets one inch across (one of the very largest) form giant billowy racemes on long stems. Buds plump and purple, opening to double campanula violet. Strong growing. Medium height. Late. Choice and showy.

MARENGO. A single with broad open trusses, very large florets of rich, warm magenta. Very tall bush. Early. A rare variety.

MARIE FINON. Purest alabaster white, single. One of Lemoine's later introductions. Always scarce.

MARIE LEGRAYE. Single white whose bloom almost completely covers its shapely thrifty bush. Unsurpassed for hardiness and lavisness of its flowers. A good variety for cutting. Mid-season.

MASSENA. Deepest purple red single, petals deeply cupped and one inch broad. Bush symmetrical making a fine specimen. Grows slowly. Late. Stock scarce.

MIRABEAU. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

MISS ELLEN WILLMOTT. Sparkling pure white double. Florets extremely large in long conical panicles. Rated the best double white. Late.

MONT BLANC. Pure white, single. Large branched spikes of enormous florets with round petals. Very showy and beautiful. Considered by many the best of all single whites.

MONTESQUIEU. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

MRS. COOLIDGE. Deep reddish mauve single enlivened by its yellow stamens. Very well liked for color and growth. Tall shapely bush. Good for cutting. Originated by the late A. B. Franklin, my father, his only contribution to the named varieties of *Syringa vulgaris*. Late mid-season.

MRS. EDWARD HARDING. Large, full double florets of deep carmine. Considered the best of the deep red doubles. A slow grower. Mid-season. Stock always limited.

PASCAL. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

PAUL DESCHANEL. Rosy mauve single with carmine buds. Impressive bloom, the petals of which are unusually broad. A rare novelty.

PAUL THIRON. Claret rose buds expand to double florets of rosy carmine to lilac pink. Resembles rosebud clusters when partially open. Rather low and spreading in habit of growth. Cut flowers keep well. One of the most beautiful of all of Lemoine's originations.

PRES. FAILLIERS. Tall, slender, with enormous spreading racemes of double lavender florets borne upon upright stems. Deeper lavender buds intermingled with more open florets make a very showy cluster. A handsome lilac. One of the best. Stock usually scarce.

PRES. GREVY. Soft periwinkle blue with orchid pink buds. Large double florets in a huge branched racime. Tallest and strongest grower. Should be planted in back of other lilacs of slower growth. One of the best double blues. Early.

PRES. LINCOLN. Bluest single lilac on the market. Clear light Wedgewood blue. Strong and rapid in growth. Early.

PRES. LOUBET. Double crimson purple. Narrow branched clusters borne profusely on a tall slender bush. Very showy and early.

PRES. POINCAIRE. An impressive violet purple double, difficult to describe. The narrow panicles are closely packed with double florets, the inner petals of which are edged with light lavender pink and twisted, giving the effect of little orchids. Mrs. Harding calls this lilac "magnificent." It is really a tri-color blend. Vigorous bush with profuse bloom. Stock scarce.

PRES. VIGER. This is a light purple double with deep purple buds. Plumes are forked, long and large, open and graceful. Tall, erect bush. Deep foliage. Late. Very beautiful and desirable.

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA. Tall, pure white single. Huge broad spike with many lobes. Bush very vigorous, slender and floriferous. Considered by Barry "by far the best single white lilac." Good for cutting. Early.

PRODIGE. Deep purplish red single whose cupped florets measure an inch and a half across. Similar to La Place but a shade darker. Broad petals are somewhat veined with darker blue-purple giving the whole a pansy coloring. Effective landscape variety. Makes handsome specimens.

REAMUR. Single florets are bright violet-petunia, a purplish red washed with pink. Outstanding in color and keeps its great beauty until completely faded. An important addition to any collection.

RUBRA DE MARLEY. A single with narrow pointed plumes of rich, reddish purple, darker and redder than Ludwig Spaeth. Often sold out because of visitor demand.

SATURNALE. A riot of bloom of pinkish lilac single florets on well filled plump plumes. Sturdy well shaped bush. Mid-season.

SOUV. DE LUDWIG SPAETH. See LUDWIG SPAETH.

TOURNEFORT. A true blend of bright orchid pink tones. A double with a large loose well filled panicle, a strong growing bush. Late mid-season. Very rare.

VAUBAN. See GIRALDI HYBRIDS.

VESTALE. Long, slender pyramids of large, single white florets showing yellow stamens. Grows lustily to a big imposing bush. Mrs. Harding classes this among Lemoine's finest lilacs. The late J. Horace McFarland and many others consider it the best of the whites. It is certainly one of the showiest. Early mid-season.

VESUVE. Described by Lemoine, the originator, as "deep claret red." A single that is probably darkest of all. A rare variety seldom listed.

VIOLETTA. Deep bluish violet double, very unusual in color. A tall, shapely bush with large open spikes. Very rare. Stock always scarce.

VOLCAN. One of the handsomest red singles. A robust and shapely bush. One of the latest. Stock scarce.

WILLIAM ROBINSON. This is the brightest of the double pinks. It has a hint of the conspicuous coppery pink of Lucie Baltet. Racemes are numerous, well-packed, symmetrical and long stemmed. Robust and showy. Mid-season.

GIRALDI HYBRIDS

A cross between forms of the common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, and the Early purple lilac, *S. oblata giraldi*. They bloom before the French Hybrids. All are vigorous and rapid growing, and all have the odor of hyacinths. Hence, their botanical name: *S. hyacinthaflora*.

BERRYER. Beautiful semi-double. Distinct mauve bicolor.

BUFFON. Clear bright mauve single opening to a delicate clear pink. Large, loose panicles. Earliest single pink.

CLAUDE BERNARD. Bright mauve pink double. Very tall.

LAMARTINE. Pinkish lilac single with violet markings. Large, loose panicle. Bush tall, floriferous, early.

LOUVOIS. Deep violet purple single with bluish shades.

MIRABEAU. Earliest of all. Mauve single.

MONTESQUIEU. One of the tallest and earliest. Bright pinkish lavender, single. Large, open trusses.

PASCAL. Bluish lavender single. Tall, early and exceedingly floriferous.

VAUBAN. Mauve pink semi-double, slightly bluer than Lamartine. Color has been described as Argyle purple to lilac-pink.

LILACS

As my father, the late A. B. Franklin, owner of the Franklin Nursery, grew older peonies claimed all his attention and he neglected his fine collection of lilacs. He had imported about 30 varieties from Lemoine of Nancy, France, had added as many more from American dealers and growers and had tried to produce some new good varieties himself. One which he originated was outstanding, a dark red single named Mrs. Coolidge.

I am very fond of lilacs, and seeing them neglected was too much for me so I purchased them from my father and he let me continue to grow them on the nursery grounds. Since 1940 I have been listing lilacs for sale.

Two lilac species are offered: *Syringa vulgaris* represented by over 55 named varieties, the so-called French Hybrids, and *S. Hyacinthaflora*, the Giraldi Hybrids.

The French Hybrids are really not hybrids at all, but improved varieties of the common lilac, *S. vulgaris*, a native of the mountainous parts of Asia, introduced into cultivation in Europe before 1560. It was cherished by our forefathers and brought by the first settlers to America, where it was common in New England dooryards. Washington planted "lilaks" at Mount Vernon where they are still to be seen.

The French Hybrids are improved varieties for your modern garden. They are big, showy, sweet scented in many variations of color and form. No waiting 8 to 9 years now for a bush to bloom, for the French Hybrids usually bloom the second or third year. Even plants six inches high have bloomed in the nursery. One of the most beautiful sights these new varieties afford is their large showy bloom on small plants. They have not lost the hardiness of the common lilac and have better habits of growth and do not spread as freely.

All the lilacs listed are on their own roots, and have not been budded or grafted. Grafted stock often fails to form roots of its own and does not do well because of an inadequate root system. Own-root lilac shoots add to the plant's bushiness, will replace the older stems, and form a new bush if the top is destroyed.

Lilacs offered here are easy to grow. They have an adequate root system and branches of clean, new wood. They need good garden soil, slightly alkaline, and a sunny well-drained location. They will need comparatively little care, are a permanent addition to your plantings and will return a hundred-fold what little care you give them.

